

# Mansfield Public Schools

## Board of Education Update

Fred Baruzzi

Superintendent of Schools

Issue #22

April 2010

Information regarding the current status of the Mansfield Public Schools: items, issues, challenges, and opportunities district staff addressed during the month, as well as upcoming district and school events.

### Enrollment

Gr.	GW		SE		VN		MMS		Total
		+/-*		+/-*		+/-*		+/-*	
PK	31	6/1	32	5/3	31	1/1			94
K	30	0/1	33	8/3	53	2/2			116
1	37	3/2	46	3/0	34	1/0			117
2	36	2/0	44	4/1	51	0/3			131
3	31	0/1	51	4/3	50	1/1			132
4	34	1/1	49	1/0	49	2/2	1		133
PK-4									724
5							139	5/1	139
6							150	5/1	150
7							144	3/2	144
8							140	2/1	140
# Boys	110		132		143		295		678
# Girls	89		123		125		279		615
Total	199	12/6	255	23/10	268	7/9	574	15/5	1296

\*Entries/Withdrawals

- Home-school year to date total: 8 families with 12 students.

	GW	SE	VN	MMS	District
Immigrant Children*	5	3	1	2	11
ELL**	2	4	3	7	16

\*Eligible immigrant children are defined as a) ages 3-21 enrolled full-time in school, b) not born in any state, c) have not been attending 1 or more schools in 1 or more states for more than 3 full academic years.

\*\*English Language Learners

### Connecticut Mastery Test – Fourth Generation Results

#/% of students at/above goal – March 2009

Grade	Math	Writing	Reading	Science
3 – 133	113/85.0%	86/72.2%	98/73.7%	-----
4 – 124	100/83.3%	92/74.2%	91/75.8%	-----
5 – 137	97/71.3%	99/72.3%	101/73.7%	110/80.3%
6 – 141	113/80.1%	109/77.9%	120/85.7%	-----
7 – 136	105/78.4%	110/80.9%	116/87.2%	-----
8 – 160	131/81.9%	139/86.9%	138/86.8%	142/88.8%

- Students not reaching goal in one or more areas: (2009-2010 grade)

Gr. 4 – 47/35.3%	Gr. 7 – 44/31.2%
Gr. 5 – 49/39.5%	Gr. 8 – 40/29.2%
Gr. 6 – 63/46.0%	Gr. 9 – 42/26.0%

### Budget

- Food Service Comparison:

Sept., 2008-April, 2009		Sept., 2009-March, 2010	
Paid Meals	Total Meals	Paid Meals	Total Meals
68,730	114,948	71,588	115,148

- Participated in MBOE Budget presentation to Town Council.

### Personnel

	Certified	Non-Certified
Retirements	0	0
Resignations	0	0
Requests for Leave	2	0
New Hires	0	0
Reduction in Force	0	0

- Participated in Personnel Committee mediation with UPSEU.
- Facilitated TEAM Committee meeting.
- Facilitated meeting with Millman regarding changes in Health Care Bill.
- Attended informational session for employees regarding: Health Care Bill.

### District: Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

#### Including Instructional Technology Applications

- Conducted three administrative council meetings.
- Continued Study Island software program for all district grade 3 and 4 students to use both at school and at home.
- Facilitated a year two implementation plan for *Bridges in Mathematics*.
- Facilitated the plan for implementing Houghton Mifflin: *Legacy of Literacy*.
- Implemented a plan for in-class preschool music.
- Implemented district review and use of CBAS (CT Benchmark Assessment System) for grades 3-8 in Math & Reading.
- Initiated MyRTI assessment.
- Facilitated scheduling of external Support Services Evaluation in collaboration with Ashford, Willington, and Region 19.

### Policies

- Continued to implement MBOE Policies reflecting recent changes in legislature drafted by Shipman & Goodwin.
- Reviewed legal opinion of Town Personnel Committee draft policy regarding open and transparent government with MBOE Policy Committee for presentation to MBOE.

## Building and Grounds

- Continued to implement an alternative work order system.
- Attended MMS Fuel Conversion meetings regarding project implementation.
- Conducted Facilities Management meeting to address current issues.

## Programs

Study Island Through April 24, 2010							
Grade 3				Grade 4			
Math		Reading		Math		Reading	
Q*	% Correct	Q*	% Correct	Q*	% Correct	Q*	% Correct
49,853	83.3	25,045	69.0	25,384	88.0	20,299	77.2

*\*Number of questions attempted on grade level*

## Security

- Continued the implementation of new required crisis prevention drills for all schools with emergency management officials.
- Facilitated district planning for gas leak drill to be conducted in May.

## Energy

- Implemented school building energy committees.
- Implemented guidelines for after school building use in an effort to reduce energy consumption.
- Reduced hall lighting in hallways in all 4 schools and some classrooms at MMS.
- Monitored use of energy efficient refrigerators to replace classroom use of small refrigerators.
- Initiated monitoring of gas heat & electric energy charges at MMS due to fuel conversion project.

## Communication

- Facilitated taping and television scheduling of LWV/MAC Panel Presentations on School Building Project.
- Distributed flier with Channel 13 dates/times of video of LWV/MAC Panel Presentations to via QNotify and "kid-mail".
- Distributed Dorothy Goodwin Bequest Fund reminders via school QNotify, "kid-mail" and USPS to homeschoolers and private schools and attended committee meeting.
- Conducted monthly meetings with bargaining unit leaders.
- Facilitated district Technology Committee meeting via video conference.
- Facilitated Professional Development Committee meeting.
- Attended MMSA Internet Safety Presentation.
- Participated in meeting of Emergency Management Advisory Committee.
- Facilitated Wellness Policy Committee meeting.
- Participated in EHHD lunch with grant funders from the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors.
- Attended quarterly IT Management Meeting.
- Attended Goodwin PTO meeting to discuss School Building Project.

## Professional Development

- Broadcast Dr. Sally Reis, SEM-R presentation from UCONN to all four schools.

## Technology Administrative Applications

- Continued implementation of HealthOffice Software.
- Continued implementation of automated system for recording substitutes.
- Continued spread sheet submission of language arts assessments.
- Continued conversion to Horizon library system software.
- Supported training and development of PowerSchool software at MMS and Filemaker Pro/EASTCONN RTI software.
- Implemented new PowerSchool cafeteria software in all four schools.
- Continued implementation of MyRTI software program.
- Continued implementation of AlertNow software program for transportation issues.

## Other

- Attended MAC (Mansfield Advocates for Children) meeting
- Attended CABE School Board Leadership through Effective Policy workshop.
- Attended Schools as Clinics Meeting at UCONN.
- Attended Hearing on Teacher Certification at CREC.
- Attended Positive School Climate and Student Success workshop.
- Attended Creating 21<sup>st</sup> Century Classroom workshop.
- Attended High School Redesign in Action workshop.
- Attended Freedom of Information Act Conference.
- Attended UCONN Colloquium, Men and Boy's Gender Role Conflict.
- Attended Autism Spectrum Unplugged session.
- Attended Principals to Guide CT and Our Educational Systems.
- Attended Millman Health Care Reform session.
- Attended EASTCONN RTTT MOU update.
- Attended CCJEF Forum.
- Attended the CCM Nuts & Bolts of Being a Supervisor.
- Attended Housing Education & Healthcare workshop.
- Attended District Leadership Strategies for Improving Teaching and Learning Conference.
- Attended Symposium on the Intersection of Race and Education.

Additional information will be provided upon request by calling 429.3350 or by emailing [mboesupt@mansfieldct.org](mailto:mboesupt@mansfieldct.org).

# Mansfield Public Schools Monthly Memorable Moments

## Goodwin School

- Fourth graders, Cheyann Plecity and Yazmin Rosa, organized a Bus Driver Appreciation Day to thank Goodwin drivers for everything they do for our students. Students made cards for each driver and presented them at the April 16 sit-down breakfast catered by the Goodwin staff. First graders sang *The Wheels on the Bus* and then the drivers were treated to kindergarteners Milo Alder and Iva Filipovic reading a book about bus rides to school. Each driver left with a certificate of appreciation and a goodie bag of snacks and gift certificates.
- On Friday, April 30, Goodwin School celebrated ARTS DAY. This event, organized by art teacher Karen Anger, brings together local artists and art lovers who offer mini workshops to Goodwin students during the day. Students register for courses and then attend sessions in cross grade level groups. This year, students could choose from courses such as Paper Making, Foam Art, Knitting, Oriental Brush Painting, and the ever popular Pipe Cleaner Art. Professional Mime artist, Robert Rivest offered clinics and workshops for all students throughout the day.

## Southeast School

- We have 59 students (3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>) at Southeast participating in the CAS KIDSMARATHON to complete a full marathon by running incremental distances each week leading to the finish in front of hundreds of fans this June at Norwich Free Academy. The intent of this program is to encourage the development of life-long fitness skills, social-emotional learning, a feeling of accomplishment and self-confidence for themselves. The mantra of the program is "finishing is winning and winning is finishing." PE Instructor Betsy Parker and World Language Teacher Diane Hutton are leading our students to the finish line.
- Southeast School recently participated in TV-Turnoff Week. This annual nationwide event is sponsored by the TV-Turnoff Network and celebrated by schools, families and other civic and community groups. It is also supported by dozens of major national organizations including the American Academy of Pediatrics, National Education Association and Reading is Fundamental. During this week children and adults pledge to spend seven screen-free days. Instead of watching TV or playing computer games, children have the opportunity to read, exercise, work in their communities or spend time with family and friends. Some of the TV Turnoff events at Southeast were a: Poster Contest, Story Night, Talent Show and School Dance.
- Southeast recently raised over \$5,000 for the St. Jude's Hospital Math-a-Thon. Third Grade Teacher Susan Kamienski led our students during the four week math-a-thon. One of our second grade classes contributed over \$1,000 for this annual character education event.

## Vinton School

- Through the efforts of our PTA, Jeffery Benoit visited Vinton School on April 28 and performed *The Golden Lyre* and *Chariot of the Sun*, stories of Greek Mythology. Students met heroes, gods and monsters of Greek mythology. Using a combination of poetry, masks, mime and audience participation, these classic tales were brought to life. Students in K through grade 2 attended the performance of *The Golden Lyre* and Grades 3 and 4 attended the performance of *Chariot of the Sun*.
- On Tuesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, Annie E. Vinton School held its annual Invention Convention / Science Fair. There were 56 student displays at the event. Seventeen of these students entered the Invention Convention which was a competition to select four students to represent our school at the Connecticut State Invention Convention (CIC.) The Willimantic Chronicle featured several photographs of the attractive and thought provoking displays created by Vinton students. On Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, four students will bring their Inventions to the CIC which will be held at Gampel Pavilion. They will share their displays with students from around the state and compete for various prizes offered by corporate sponsors. The students selected were Mena Curtis, Grade 1, for her "Kitty Catcher", Lauren Helbling, Grade 3, for her "All Weather Easy Wash," Alex Chandy, Grade 3, for his "Lego Sweep and Sort", and Misha Rosado, Grade 4, for her "Gerbil Feeder".

## Vinton School continued

- Vinton School was honored to be chosen as one of six schools in Connecticut to receive a Mohegan Tribe Challenge Grant for the 2009-2010 school year. Ms. Cathy Hain and Ms. Linda Duckstein applied for and received this grant for the fourth grade classes at Vinton Elementary School. The grants of \$1,000 each are based on the applicant's ability to provide the greatest use of all resources. The entire fourth grade has been studying Native American Culture as part of Mansfield's social studies curriculum. This year fourth grade began their studies with a visit to the Pequot Museum. Using a computer software program, they have created Photostories depicting Native American Culture. This grant also integrates the music program and the social studies program. Mrs. Frascarelli is using Native American instruments in her music classes and some of the grant money is being used to purchase a Native American flute. The Tribe's Cultural and Community Programs department sponsors a one-day instructional program with a visit to the school. Each selected school group is also given a field trip to the Tantaquidgeon Museum, the nation's oldest Native American owned and operated museum, and has a chance to see first-hand the archives and artifacts that are a vital part of the Tribe's history."

(<http://www.mohegan.nsn.us/pressroom/ViewPressRelease.aspx?articleID=108>):

## Mansfield Middle School

- Science consultants from EastConn have been working with our sixth grade teachers and students in an exploration of vernal ponds and invasive species around the school. First, students learned how to use a GPS unit to determine their longitude and latitude. Then they discovered some invasive species – including *multiflora rose*, *Japanese barberry*, and *winged euonymus* – growing in the woods around the school. At a vernal pond, students discovered frog eggs, a yellow spotted salamander (half of which had probably been eaten by an owl), and mosquito larvae.
- The MMS **MATHCOUNTS** team (Eric Hong, Jonathan Huang, Franton Lin, Rachel Son and Samuel Li) made it to the state competition. These five students all scored in the top 25% in the round for the Eastern Connecticut chapter, earning second place in the chapter. They finished eighth in state. Next year should be another great year, with all team members returning except Franton Lin.
- Congratulations to 5<sup>th</sup> grader Amber Quick who has won the CT Tree Protective Association's Arbor Day Essay Contest. Her paper, *My Apple Tree*, was chosen from over 100 entries as the winning essay from Tolland County. Amber and her family will be honored at a tree planting ceremony on Friday, April 30<sup>th</sup> on the grounds of the State Capitol in Hartford.
- Each year the Latin students from MMS participate in the Connecticut Latin Exam Contest. The grade 7 students take the middle school examination, and the grade 8 students take the high school level I exam. This year 29 students in grade 7 received awards and in grade 8, 32 students were recognized for high achievement, including 10 *summa cum laude* winners.
- Two MMS teachers, Tara Achane Miller and Donna Koropatkin, visited our partner school in Taian City, China, in April. Our partnership with the Middle School at TaiShan Academy was established in 2004, and there have been visits back and forth each year since then. We are beginning to make plans for a visit by students from Tai'an in September 2010.
- Five MMS students, accompanied by enrichment teacher Doug Perkins, competed in an international robotics competition in Dallas, Texas, during the April vacation. The five students (8<sup>th</sup> graders Franton Lin & Avery Fried and 7<sup>th</sup> graders Merce Tabor, Geoffrey Russell & Sam Li) built and programmed their robot during the winter. The students participated in the autonomous-control and driver-controlled competitions. They designed the robot to retrieve, throw and block foam balls of three different sizes in frantic two-minute matches. The MMS team worked in alliances with students from New Zealand, China, and Mexico as they participated in a dozen matches.

## Upcoming Events in May:

*Please join us at any/all of these events*

GW	SE	VN
Mobile Dentist 5/3/10	Florence Griswold Museum Gr. 4 FT 5/3/10	PTA Meeting 5/3/10 7:00pm
Book Fair 5/5-5/7/10	Special Person's Day 5/3/10 & 5/7/10	Grade 3 Bowling 5/7/10
Science Fair 5/6/10 6:30pm	Parent Hour/PTO 5/3/10 6:00pm	Mobile Dentist-VN/SE students 5/10/10
PTO Meeting 5/19/10 6:30pm	Hartford Stage Co. Literacy Connections 5/10-14/10	PTA Fun Fair 5/13/10
Fun Fair 5/22/10 10:00am	Pot Luck Supper 5/13/10 5:30pm	Celebrate Vinton Assembly 5/20/10
	School Wide Assembly 5/21/10	Sturbridge Village FT Gr. 2 5/26/10
	Tag Sale 5/22/10	Grade 4 Musical 5/28/10 2:30 and 7:00pm
	Bushnell Gr. 1 & 2 FT 5/26/10	
	Gr. 4 Poetry Celebration 5/28/10 2:30	
MMS		
MMSA Meeting 5/4/10 7:00pm	Mobile Dentist 5/5/10	Eureka Presentation 5/12/10 9:45am
Spring Band Concert 5/13/10 7:00pm	Spring Band Concert Assembly 5/13/10 9:00am	Getting to Know You Evening Grade 4 5/13/10 6:30pm
School BBQ Picnic 5/18/10 Lunch	Spring Orchestra Concert 5/19/10 7:00pm	Spring Orchestra/Choral Assembly 5/20/10 1:00pm
Spring Choral Concert 5/26/10 7:00pm	Ellis Island Simulation Gr. 8 5/27/10 AM	Parent Tea Gr. 4 5/27/10 3:30pm
MMS Bands in Memorial Day Parade 5/31/10 9:00am		
District		
MBOE Meeting 5/6/10 7:30pm (MMS)	MBOE Meeting 5/13/10 7:30	MBOE Workshop 5/27/10 5:30pm Bishop Center 146
Memorial Day Holiday 5/31/10		
Town/Region Budget		
Region 19 Budget Referendum 5/4/10	Annual Town Meeting 5/11/10 MMS 7:00pm	